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Message Text

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40
ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 CU-03 AID-10 PM-03 L-02 NSC-10

NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 IO-03

RSR-01 /062 W
---------- 053836
R 271305 Z APR 73
FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6345
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

C O N F I D E N T I A L OUAGADOUGOU 00757

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, UV , US
SUBJ : AMBASSADOR YAGUIBOU AND US/ VOLTAN RELATIONS

FOR AF/ W

1. IN SPITE OF FACT WE HAD A WORKING SESSION WITH HIM PLUS A COCKTAIL IN HIS HONOR, PLUS THREE OR FOUR ADDITIONAL MEETINGS ON OTHERS' TURF, INCLUDING DON CAMILLO' S YAGUIBOU SINGULARLY NON COMMUNICATIVE DURING PAST THREE WEEKS HIS CONSULTATION IN OUAGADOUGOU. HE LEAVES OUAGADOUGOU APRIL 28, EXPECTS RETURN WASHINGTON AROUND MAY 2.

2. ALTHOUGH AS SMOOTH AND URBANE AS ALWAYS, YAGUIBOU PRESENTS AIR OF BIENG PREOCCUPIED, INSECURE AND DISTRACTED. WE RECEIVED DEFINITE IMPRESSION HE IS AS FRUSTRATED AND UNCOMFORTABLE AS MANY OUAGADOUGOU EMBASSIES ARE WITH INADEQUACIES AND INEFFICIENCIES HIS GOVERNMENT AND PARTICULARLY HIS FOREIGN MINISTRY. AT ONE POINT HE FLATLY GUMBLED " MY MINISTER IS POORLY
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SUPPORTED." HE ASKED FOR OUR HELP KEEPING HIM

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GENERALLY INFORMED ABOUT VOLTAN AFFAIRS, ASKING THAT
DARIS RELAY ANY IMPORTANT INFORMATION I THOUGHT HE
SHOULD HAVE.

3. I HAD PARTICULARLY SOUGHT YAGUIBOU' S
UNDERSTANDING ON THREE CURRENTLY TROUBLESOME ISSUES
BETWEEN US AND FONMIN CONOMBO, I. E., CONOMBO' S THREAT
TO TERMINATE OUR EXCHANGE PROGRAM (EMBTELS 729, 699 AND 599),
HIS GRATUITOUS PUBLIC SWITCH AT USAID FOR ALLEGEDLY SHUTTING
OFF MEASLES VACCINE JUST WHEN UPPER VOLTA NEEDED IT MOST,
AND HIS GROWING BITTERNESS OVER US AID IN GENERAL.
CONOMBO PERSONALLY INTERVENED TO PREVENT PUBLICATION OUR
PRESS RELEASE A WEEK AGO CONCERNING ARRIVAL 60,000 DOSES
MEASLES VACCINE. HE HAS GONE OUT OF HIS WAY IN RECENT
WEEKS TO TELL UNDP AND GERMAN VISITORS THAT THE US ISN' T
MAKING SUFFICIENT EFFORT TO HELP UPPER VOLTA.

5. YAGUIBOU HAS HAD VIRUALLY NOTHING TO OFFER ON
ANY OF THESE SPECIFIC POINTS. HE SAYS WE MUST REALIZE
THAT AVERAGE VOLTANS IS CONVINCED US COULD MAKE THE
DESERT BLOOM IF US WERE SUFFICIENTLY INTERESTED IN
PLIGHT OF POOR SMALL LANDLOCKED NATIONS OF THE SAHEL.
HE SAID THIS ATTITUDE, WHILE ADMITTEDLY SIMPLISTIC,
CANNOT HELP BUT COLOR OFFICIAL VIEWS CONCERNING US
PRESENCE. I HAVE REMINDED YAGUIBOU, CONOMBO, DAKOURE,
GARANGO, AND OTHERS THAT OUR AID TO UPPER VOLTA IS
WITHOUT QUESTION MORE SUBSTANTIAL, MORE RELEVANT AND
MORE IMPORTANT NOW THAN IT HAS EVER BEEN IN THE PAST.
IT IS INCUMBENT UPON RESPONSIBLE LEADERS NOT TO
MISREPRESENT THIS SITUATION. I HAVE ALSO STRESSED
THAT VALID ASSISTANCE REQUIRES IMPORTANT LOCAL

COUNTERPART EFFORT TO PRODUCE PROJECTS THAT CAN
UTILIZE FOREIGN AID EFFECTIVELY.

6. WE WERE SURPRISED THAT YAGUIBOU DID NOT RAISE
CURRENTLY PENDING QUESTION OF ADDITIONAL US INPUT TO
EMERGENCY DROUGHT RELIEF EFFORT. NOR HAS HE HAD ANYTHING
TO SAY CONCERNING RECENT OUAGADOUGOU LABOR DISORDERS AND
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POLITICAL MALAISE. THIS IS NOT THE FIRST TIME WE HAVE
WONDERED HOW MUCH HE KNOWS OR CARES ABOUT WHAT IS GOING
ON OUTSIDE HIS IMMEDIATE PERSONAL CONCERNS.
YAGUIBOU EVINCED DISAPPOINTMENT OVER
DEPARTMENT' S RESPONSE TO HIS LATEST CONVERSATIONS
CONCERNING PRIME MINISTER' S PROPOSED VISIT. HE SAYS
PM WOULD PREFER VISIT FROM JUNE 25-26 ON HEELS OF
OTTAWA TRIP BUT COULD ALTERNATIVELY COME TO WASHINGTON
JUST BEFORE OTTAWA, ALTHOUGH HE CLAIMS TO HAVE DONE

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HIS BEST TO CONVINCE PM THAT VISIT MUST NOT HINGE ON
LEVEL OF WASHINGTON MEETINGS, HE MAINTAINS BALL IS NOW
IN OUR COURT TO REQUEST TOP LEVEL MEETING AND INFORM
HIM OF RESPONSE. PLEASE LET ME KNOW STATUS THIS
QUESTION.
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